

REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement in the Office Action mailed February 8, 2007 that claims 1, 3-14, 24-27, 29, 32 and 33 are allowed. The Examiner rejected claims 28 and 30 as being unpatentable over various references. Specifically, the Examiner rejected claim 30 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0069870 A1 to Farmer, and claim 28 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over Farmer in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,279,574 to Richardson.

Without admitting that claims 28 and 30 are unpatentable for the stated reasons, Applicants have amended those claims without prejudice to depend from allowed claim 3. In addition, Applicants have presented new claims 34 and 35 to depend from allowed claim 33. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Remarks About The Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicants timely mailed a Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (Second Supp. IDS) on October 10, 2006, and made additional comments and a request for consideration thereof in Applicants' Amendment filed November 10, 2006 and again in the Amendment filed June 11, 2007. Applicants have not yet received an initialed Form PTO-1449 from the Examiner. A review of the USPTO PAIR system reveals that the Form PTO-1449, along with the Second Supp. IDS and copies of the foreign references, has been received and made part of this file. In order to ensure consideration thereof, Applicants have filed another Second Supp. IDS, along with an authorization to charge any applicable fees.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the references submitted with the Second Supp. IDS and initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Should the Examiner have any questions about the Second Supp. IDS, Applicants respectfully invite him to contact the undersigned attorney at his convenience.

CONCLUSION:

No additional claims fees are believed to be due. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR § 1.17 associated with this paper (including any extension fee required to ensure that this paper is timely filed), or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-1925.

If for any reason this application is not considered to be in condition for allowance and an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-7732.

Dated: December 11, 2007

By:

Respectfully Submitted,



Andrew Stover
Reg. No. 38,629
Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE LTD.
Post Office Box 10395
Chicago, Illinois 60610
(312) 321-4200